Meeting of Crisis Management Group

3029. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have the convened the first meeting of the high-power Crisis Management Group taking into account the war in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have evaluated the war scenario and its outcome; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the future oil requiements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) The first meeting of the Iraq: Crisis Management Committee was held in the Ministry of External Affairs on March 17, 2003. The Committee has been meeting regularly to reivew the impact of the war in Iraq on India and the Indian community in the Gulf region.

(e) There has been no disruption in supplies of oil on account of the on-going war. The measures taken by the Government to safeguard the future oil requirements include diversification of crude oil imports from different countries, increasing domestic production and acquiring equity oil abroad.

All Party meeting to discuss US action against Iraq

3030. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an all party meeting was convened on the 22nd march, 2003 in New Delhi to take a unified stand with regard to the unilateral action by U.S.A. in declaring a war against Iraq;

(b) if so, whether any consensus could be arrived at in the matter and if so, the details thereof;